

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Adult Performance Indicator Project Advisory Group

FROM: John Pandiani
Lucille Schacht

DATE: July 16, 1997

RE: Access to Medical Care – Part I

The attached pages describe the results of our analysis of access to general medical care as measured by the proportion of clients receiving physician office visits. Rates of access are compared for CRT Medicaid recipients, other Medicaid recipients, and the general public.

We look forward to your comments on the quality of the data, the appropriateness of the analysis, and the effectiveness of the presentation of these data, as well as your interpretation of the results.

Access to Medical Care Part I

Question: Do mental health service recipients have equal access (relative to the general population) to general medical care? (*This is related to MHSIP Report Card Outcome #1.*)

Data: Information on general medical office visits by the general population of Vermont is based on a 1995 telephone survey conducted under contract with the Department of Health. Information on medical office visits for Medicaid recipients during 1994-1995 was obtained from Medicaid Paid Claims files maintained by the Vermont Office of Health Access. Information on Medicaid clients of community mental health programs was obtained from Medicaid Paid Claim files. Information on the total number of clients served by CRT programs was obtained from Quarterly Service Reports submitted to DDMHS by community providers.

Analysis: A file with all paid claims for office visits during 1994-1995 was extracted from the Medicaid databases. A separate file of all persons eligible for Medicaid during any of 1995-1996 was extracted from the Medicaid databases. An additional file of all clients who received a service during 1996 from the CRT program at the CMHCs was extracted from the Medicaid databases. All files included the Medicaid client identifier, which was used to link the three files together. The proportion of Medicaid clients from the CRT population and the non-CRT population was calculated after the files were linked. In order to be included in the analysis, clients need to be enrolled in Medicaid at least 300 days during each of 1995 and 1996. The analysis was conducted for females and males separately and clients were grouped by age 18-64 and 65 and up.

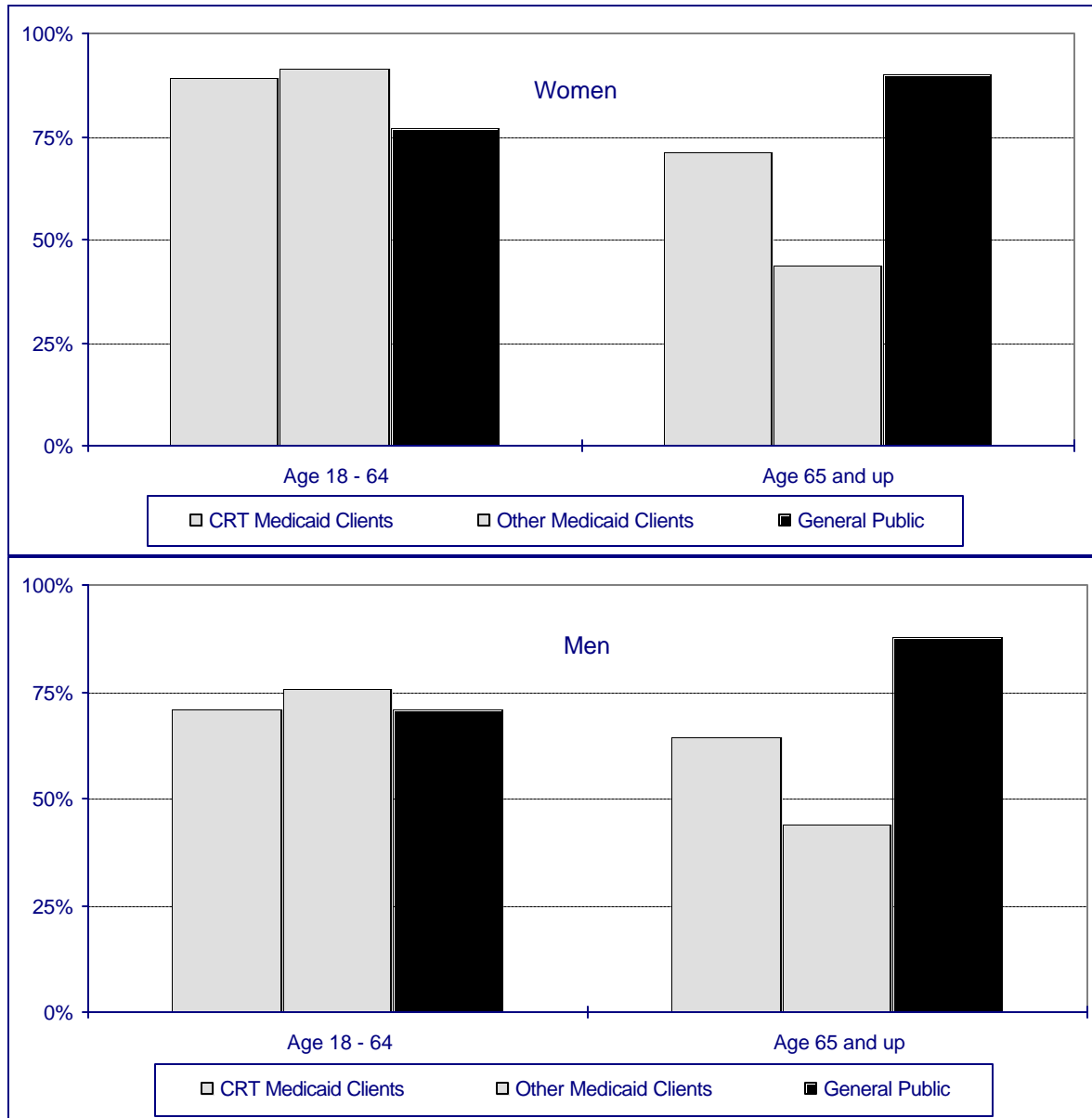
Results: Among women 18-64 years old, clients with Medicaid were somewhat more likely than the general population to access general medical care (89% for CRT Medicaid, 91% for other Medicaid, and 77% for the general public). Among women 65 and older, Medicaid clients had a notably lower rate of access. Non-CRT Medicaid had a substantially lower rate of access than CRT Medicaid clients. The Medicare insurance program may have an impact on Medicaid billings in this age group, but it is not clear why it would affect other Medicaid clients differently than CRT Medicaid clients.

In the 18-64 age group, men were generally less likely than women to have access to general medical care. Among men 18-64 years old, there was very little difference in access to medical care among the three populations (71% for CRT Medicaid, 76% for other Medicaid, and 71% for the general public). Among men 65 and older, clients with Medicaid coverage had lower access than the general public (64% for CRT Medicaid, 44% for other Medicaid, and 88% for the general public). As with women, the Medicare insurance program may have an impact on Medicaid billings in this age group.

Next Questions: Are the differences noted above also evident for routine recommended diagnostic procedures? Will the above patterns change with the introduction of Managed

Care? Are there differences in these access patterns among the geographical regions of Vermont? Do clients of Adult Outpatient programs have similar patterns of access to general medical care?

Office Visits for General Medical Care within Past Two Years
CRT Medicaid Clients, Other Medicaid Enrollees, and General Public



	Total	CRT Medicaid Clients				Other Medicaid Clients				General
	CRT Clients ¹	Enrollees ³		Office Visits ⁴		Enrollees ²		Office Visits ⁴		Public
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	%
Females										
Overall	1,796	1,139	63%	992	87%	19,424	14,277	74%		80%
Age 18 - 64	1,500	996	66%	890	89%	12,143	11,098	91%		77%
Age 65 and up	296	143	48%	102	71%	7,281	3,179	44%		90%
Males										
Overall	1,501	847	56%	595	70%	8,287	5,457	66%		73%
Age 18 - 64	1,350	771	57%	546	71%	5,753	4,348	76%		71%
Age 65 and up	151	76	50%	49	64%	2,534	1,109	44%		88%

¹ Total CRT clients served by community mental health providers during FY 1996.

² Clients eligible for Medicaid for at least 300 days in 1995 and 300 days in 1996. Percent is calculated as a percent of all CRT clients.

³ CRT Medicaid clients received at least one service billed by a CMHC CRT program during calendar 1996, and meet the definition above for Medicaid eligibles.

⁴ Office visits procedure codes : "99201", "99202", "99203", "99204", "99205", "99211", "99212", "99213", "99214", "99215".

Number represents clients in total or each group. Percent represents proportion of clients receiving procedure.